

Estimate of the Situation

All tactics are based upon the ability of leaders on all levels to do an estimate of the situation. The estimate is a logical thought process which helps the leader apply doctrine to a specific situation to make tactical decisions. The estimate is the key to mission type orders, exercising initiate, decentralized operations.

The estimate of the situation has five steps:

- ~ Detailed mission analysis (step 1)
- ~ Situation and courses of action (step 2)
- ~ Analyze courses of action wargame (step 3)
- ~ Compare courses of action (step 4)
- ~ Decision (step 5)

The estimate of the situation is a continuous process. It is part of the troop leading procedure (to be on next post).

Mission Analysis ~ Mission analysis begins with the receipt of a new mission. It is a thought process by which a leader ensures that he knows what is required and he is acting as the commander intends. It is a dynamic and continuous process, which means that the steps may not occur in the order given. Often the leader does not have the information required to do all the steps. So you do what you can and go through the process again when you receive more information. This process occurs continuously within the troop leading procedure. A mission is the essential task(s) that must be done and its purpose. It contains the element who, what, when, where, and why. The mission analysis has seven steps. They are:

Extract the mission and intent of the commander two levels up.

Extract the mission and intent of the immediate commander.

Extract all assigned tasks.

Determine mission essential tasks.

Determine constraints and limitations.

Construct restated mission.

Construct a tentative time schedule.

The process starts by taking information required for the analysis. This includes the mission and intent of the commander two levels up, the mission and intent of the immediate commander, all assigned tasks, and constraints and limitations. This information is generally extracted for an OPOD (Operation Order- to follow on later posts). From this the leader reviews and restates the mission as it affects his or her unit. This knowledge is also used to estimate the situation and develop courses of action.

* The mission and intent of the commander two levels